

top priority. My amendment was overwhelmingly approved, by a vote of 422 to 3, and accepted into the bill.

At a time where our televisions, newspapers, radios and other forms of media are dominated with discussions of presidential nominations, housing foreclosures, economic stimulus packages, Middle Eastern conflicts and the war in Iraq, it would be all too easy to disregard our commitment to the enterprise of space exploration and its value to the United States and abroad. Let us look to the sky to honor the memory of these fallen heroes who gave their lives for the cause of pushing the limit of human exploration for the enrichment of all of mankind.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot convey adequately repay the debt that is owed. We cannot sufficiently articulate the feelings of sorrow that are universally felt; however, we can pay those seven souls no greater tribute than to carry on the work they believed in and paid the ultimate sacrifice for. The contributions to space exploration and service these great astronauts provided are priceless and will never go unrecognized.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and in so doing, giving the men and women of our space program the respect and recognition they deserve.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 943, a resolution that remembers the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honors its crew members on the 22nd anniversary of their tragic flight.

On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle disintegrated shortly after takeoff, killing seven crew members. One of those astronauts, Ellison Onizuka, was born and raised in my State of Hawaii and served as Hawaii's first astronaut.

Mr. Onizuka was very enthusiastic about our space program and never hesitated to share his knowledge and experience with the people of Hawaii. He recognized the importance of education and encouraged students to pursue an interest in space and science-related fields. Four major space programs and centers in Hawaii carry on the legacy of this inspiring explorer: the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Space Center, Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Science Day, the Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, and Challenger Center Hawaii.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 943, which honors Mr. Onizuka's contributions and celebrates the courage and bravery of the *Challenger* crew.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 943.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the

Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1515

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXPLORER I SATELLITE

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 287) celebrating the 50th anniversary of the United States Explorer I satellite, the world's first scientific spacecraft, and the birth of the United States space exploration program.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 287

Whereas January 31, 2008, is the 50th anniversary of the launch of Explorer I, the first United States satellite to be successfully lofted into space and the world's first scientific satellite;

Whereas the launch of Explorer I marks the birth of the era of United States space exploration, a half-century of advances in both robotic and human exploration of space, including the first footsteps by humanity on another world;

Whereas, since the launch of Explorer I, the United States has launched spacecraft—

(1) to explore each of the solar system's planets and the Earth's Moon;

(2) to observe the Earth and the interactions of its atmospheric, oceanic, and land systems;

(3) to conduct studies of the Sun and its interactions with Earth;

(4) to investigate asteroids and comets;

(5) to peer deeper into space to understand the origin of the universe and the formation of the stars, galaxies, and planets; and

(6) to extend human presence into space;

Whereas Explorer I and the impetus for scientific satellites occurred as part of the International Geophysical Year, a major scientific initiative of 67 nations to collect coordinated measurements of the Earth, whose spirit continues to be embodied in the international partnerships that enhance space endeavors;

Whereas Explorer I carried a scientific instrument designed and built by Dr. James A. Van Allen of the University of Iowa to detect cosmic rays;

Whereas the cosmic ray measurements from Explorer I led to the discovery of regions of energetic charged particles trapped in the Earth's magnetic field, later named the Van Allen radiation belts;

Whereas the combined efforts of Dr. James A. Van Allen and his science team, individuals at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and individuals at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency made possible the successful development and launch of Explorer I and ushered in a new age of United States scientific and human exploration of space;

Whereas the next 50 years of United States accomplishments in outer space will rely on individuals possessing strong mathematics, science, and engineering skills and the educators who will train such individuals;

Whereas the United States space program enables the development of advanced technologies, skills, and capabilities that support United States competitiveness and economic growth;

Whereas Dr. Van Allen, commenting on the future of space science a decade ago, said

“there is no shortage of great ideas on what we'd like to do. . . . There is virtually no limit to what can be investigated in interplanetary science and astronomy.”; and

Whereas over the next 50 years the United States will attain additional exciting and significant achievements in robotic and human space exploration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) celebrates the achievement of the late Dr. James A. Van Allen and his science team and all of the individuals at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Army Ballistic Missile Agency who, through the successful launch of Explorer I, brought the United States into the space age and science into the realm of space;

(2) supports science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs, which are critical for preparing the next generation to lead future United States space endeavors;

(3) recognizes the role of the United States space program in strengthening the scientific and engineering foundation that contributes to United States innovation and economic growth; and

(4) looks forward to the next 50 years of United States achievements in the robotic and human exploration of space.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Concurrent Resolution 287, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 287. This resolution celebrates the 50th anniversary of *Explorer I*, the first successful launch of a U.S. satellite into space, which took place on January 31, 1958, a date that also marks the 50th birthday of our U.S. space program.

With the launch of *Explorer I*, the United States was the first to send a scientific instrument into Earth's orbit. The measurements from that instrument led to the significant discovery of the Van Allen radiation belts.

We owe our profound appreciation and gratitude to the late Dr. James Van Allen and science team and those individuals from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and Army Ballistic Missile Agency who made possible the success of *Explorer I*.

Their pioneering efforts launched the beginning of America's journey beyond Earth, a journey that continues to generate remarkable accomplishments in

pushing back the frontiers of scientific knowledge and human space exploration.

Since the launch of *Explorer 1* 50 years ago, the United States has led the world in space exploration, with American astronauts taking humanity's first steps on the Moon, and American scientists working with their international colleagues to launch scientific probes to each of the planets in our solar system, to the Moon, asteroids and comets, and to study the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the solar system.

Our astronomical observatories peer deeper and deeper into the universe and our Earth observing spacecraft deliver data that improves our quality of life and helps us preserve the health of our planet. Through these and many other exciting accomplishments, our space program has truly become one of our Nation's crown jewels.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the anniversary of *Explorer 1* and past achievements, it is important that we also look to space as a story about America's future.

The U.S. space program is a catalyst for the advanced technologies and innovation that contribute to America's economic competitiveness, and it also serves as a training ground for the scientists and engineers who are so critical to keeping America strong.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 287 and America's space program.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 287, offered by my friend and Space Subcommittee chairman, MARK UDALL, as well as Mr. MELANCON, RALPH HALL and myself, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the launch of *Explorer 1*, America's first satellite. With this launch, America became a spacefaring Nation.

Unlike the Soviets, who 4 months earlier had launched *Sputnik 1* in secrecy, America's space program was carried on in full public view. Our first attempt to launch a satellite, *Vanguard 1*, ended in failure. As a consequence, some suggested that our preeminence as a world power was jeopardized.

Explorer 1 proved otherwise. The successful launch came through a collaboration of brilliant and dedicated scientists and engineers led by Wernher von Braun, who designed the launch vehicle known as the *Jupiter C*; Dr. Charles Pickering, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who designed the satellite; and Dr. James Van Allen, who designed the main instrument carried aboard *Explorer 1*.

On the night of January 31, 1958, *Explorer 1* lifted off from Pad 26A at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Almost 2 hours passed before a ground station in California confirmed the satellite's suc-

cessful orbit. America was now on a path to achieve space preeminence.

Unlike *Sputnik 1*, *Explorer 1* did more than demonstrate the ability to place an object into orbit. It had a valuable scientific purpose. *Explorer 1* consisted of a Geiger counter that detected cosmic rays, temperature sensors, and a micrometeorite impact microphone. These instruments discovered radiation belts, now named after Dr. James Van Allen, that encircle the Earth.

Explorer 1 stopped transmitting data on May 23, 1958 when its batteries died. But it stayed in orbit until March 31, 1970 and completed about 58,000 orbits around the Earth.

Explorer 1's legacy was far greater than anticipated. Few imagined how satellites could maintain our Nation's security and economy and extend man's reach to the far corners of the solar system.

Government and private enterprise, scientists and engineers, worked together to exploit and expand the capacities of space. Today, a vibrant and critical commercial industry builds and launches sophisticated satellites.

In Earth orbit, satellites forecast weather and measure surface winds and other climate variables. They monitor land-use patterns and remote sensing. They help farmers gauge the health of their crops; transmit data, radio and television signals into our homes and to businesses around the world; and they provide the infrastructure for the global positioning system, enabling the capability to accurately navigate to virtually any point on Earth.

Beyond Earth orbit, satellites have visited every planet in the solar system except for Pluto, although a mission is under way to visit this far-away planet in 2015. Satellites have carried rovers to the surface of Mars, they have captured samples of interstellar dust and returned them to Earth, photographed the heavens with exceptional clarity, measured background temperatures and radiation to high precision, and landed on a moon of Saturn.

Explorer 1 also led to our human spaceflight program under which America learned to orbit the Earth, explore the Moon, and live for extended periods aboard the international space station.

H. Con. Res. 287 commemorates the achievements of the *Explorer 1* team, and acknowledges its role as the impetus for what has become a critical part of America's greatness. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill, along with my good friend and ranking Republican member of the Science and Technology Committee, RALPH HALL, and I urge all Members to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, and I would reserve my time.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier I shamelessly invited people to come and experience the Daytona 500. While they are there, they may want to come visit a museum not far from the Daytona

500. Launch Complex 26, where *Explorer 1* was launched, now houses the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Museum.

If you visit, you can tour the blockhouse from which the *Explorer 1* was launched, see launch control equipment from that era and walk on the launch pad. Just a few hundred yards away is Launch Pad 5 where America's first astronaut, Alan Shepherd, was launched into space. Emily Perry serves as the museum's curator. Sixty volunteers, led by Gary Harris, guide these tours. Most of these volunteers are veterans of America's space program, including some from the *Explorer 1* era. Their stories provide a window into this fascinating past. Tours begin from the Kennedy Space Center's Visitors Complex and operate 7 days a week.

We have talked about how *Explorer 1* began America's journey as a spacefaring people. If you visit the Space and Missile Museum, you can see and touch where that journey began.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today we consider H. Con. Res. 287, Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Explorer 1 Satellite and the Birth of the United States' Space Exploration Program, which I introduced last week.

My statement about its introduction highlighted the inspiring accomplishments of our early space pioneers who contributed to the successful development and launch of *Explorer 1*—America's first space satellite—and the multiple achievements of our Nation's first 50 years in space.

Today, I want to focus on one of the major enablers of America's highly successful space program, namely our highly skilled science and engineering workforce.

As we celebrate 50 years of exciting accomplishments in space, we witness the return on our Nation's past investments in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

Those investments produced the cadre of highly skilled scientists and engineers who have led our Nation in pushing back the boundaries of scientific knowledge and making possible the human and robotic exploration of outer space.

Their contributions to our successes in space have also yielded critical benefits by promoting the innovation and advanced technology development that are central to America's competitiveness.

As was expressed so clearly in the National Academies' "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report and in the America COMPETES Act that was signed into law last year, our nation's economic strength cannot be sustained without renewed investments in STEM education.

Space has always been an attraction for some of America's best and brightest. Our space program provides a unique means of encouraging the pursuit of STEM fields. I urge my colleagues in Congress to support the STEM programs and educators we need to prepare the next generation of scientists and engineers who will lead America's next 50 years of accomplishments in space and on Earth.

And I urge you also to maintain Congress's commitment to making the investments necessary to continue a robust and vital space program for the Nation.

I would like to thank my colleagues Ms. GIFFORDS and Mr. ROHRBACHER for their support of the bill, along with the original cosponsors. I urge adoption of my resolution.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 287 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch of *Explorer I* and the birth of an era of United States space exploration.

On January 31, 1958, the United States officially entered space as *Explorer I* successfully reached orbit. At a time when our Nation feared the worst from the Soviet Union, the successful launch of *Sputnik* supercharged anxiety. Our Nation responded, and responded quickly.

Explorer I, however, was more than just an emphatic response to *Sputnik*. It was achieved important scientific discoveries, as well. As mechanical engineer Carl Maggio noted, all involved "liked the difference between our satellite and *Sputnik*," because "ours flew science, the Van Allen experiment." Indeed, amongst the numerous discoveries made by *Explorer I*, one of the most important was the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belt, a discovery that would be considered as one of the most outstanding discoveries of the International Geophysical Year.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to visit the home of *Explorer I*—Jet Propulsion Laboratories. Seeing this extraordinary accomplishment in person, I couldn't help but feel a swell of pride knowing that this satellite was the humble beginning of our Nation's esteemed space program. An old proverb holds that even the greatest of journeys begins with a single step. The launch of *Explorer I* was that first step, and it helped pave the way for a half-century of space exploration. Today, JPL missions have rovers on Mars, evaluating soil samples on a microscopic level.

To conclude, I would like to quote the NASA Chief historian Steven J. Dick, who observed that "Like the railroad and the airplane, spaceflight has impacted society in ways even the visionaries could not have foreseen, and that we cannot fully fathom even today." Indeed, through the space program, we continue to make important discoveries whose benefits amaze generations to come.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 287, recognizing the anniversary of the launch of *Explorer I*. The launch of *Sputnik I* by the Russians in October 1957 created alarm in the U.S. Many Americans were fearful of what a Russian space program meant for our country.

However, the United States quickly responded. In just 84 days scientists built the *Explorer I* satellite that would begin the next 50 years of space exploration. Scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory collaborated under the leadership of Dr. William Pickering to manufacture what would become *Explorer I*. On January 31, 1958, the United States launched its first satellite into space. Once in orbit, the satellite collected data on cosmic rays. The scientific data was important, but the beginning of our space program was also important for the assurance it provided Americans. *Explorer I* signaled we would not fall behind Russia in space.

Today we continue to rely on scientists, engineers, and mathematicians to solve the pressing problems of our day. These innovators continuously rise to the challenges we as a Nation face. *Explorer I* stands as a

milestone in space, and foreshadowed what we would achieve in just 50 years.

Today, the United States remains a leader in space: landing humans on the moon; exploring our solar system; and gaining a better understanding of our land, oceans, and atmosphere. We must continue to reach for new goals in space. By doing so, we continue our leadership of this world and lead humanity to a brighter destiny.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. FEENEY. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, not having any other speakers, I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 287.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE X PRIZE FOUNDATION

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 907) congratulating the X PRIZE Foundation's leadership in inspiring a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 907

Whereas the United States is heavily dependent on foreign sources of oil that are concentrated in tumultuous countries and regions;

Whereas the national security and economic prosperity of the United States demand that we move toward a sustainable energy future;

Whereas the ability of foreign governments to assert great control over oil production allows unfriendly regimes to use energy exports as leverage against the United States and our allies;

Whereas continued reliance on the use of greenhouse gas intensive fuels may impact global climate change;

Whereas the automotive sector is heavily dependent on oil, which makes Americans vulnerable to oil price fluctuation and is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas average fuel economy in the United States has increased slowly during the last 20 years;

Whereas many promising technologies exist that can lead to a breakthrough vehicle that will meet the need for sustainable transportation;

Whereas breakthroughs are often achieved by the free market fueling the entrepreneurial spirit of inventors and investors;

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE is a private, independent, technology-neutral competition being developed by the X PRIZE Foundation to inspire a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that help break our addiction to oil and stem the effects of climate change;

Whereas the Automotive X PRIZE will award a multimillion dollar reward to teams that can design, build, and demonstrate production-capable vehicles that achieve 100 MPG or its equivalent; and

Whereas such prize competitions generate involvement and innovation across a broad spectrum of known and untapped talent such as the \$25,000 Orteig Prize won by Charles Lindbergh which leveraged \$400,000 worth of additional research by teams trying to win the prize and spurred a \$250,000,000,000 aviation industry, and the \$10,000,000 Ansari X Prize which leveraged \$100,000,000 worth of additional research: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the X PRIZE Foundation's leadership for inspiring a new generation of viable, super-efficient vehicles that help break our addiction to oil through the Automotive X PRIZE competition;

(2) congratulates the X PRIZE Foundation on their innovation and vision to bring together some of the finest minds in the public and private sectors, including government, academia, and industry, to advise and participate in the Automotive X PRIZE competition; and

(3) applauds the X PRIZE Foundation's ongoing commitment to find solutions to some of humanity's greatest challenges as exemplified in the Automotive X PRIZE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 907, the resolution now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2004, Space Ship One became the first privately funded craft to take a person into space. Space Ship One flew again on September 29, 2004, and on October 4, 2004, and upon successful completion of these flights, Mojave Aerospace Ventures, the developers of Space Ship One, captured the \$10 million Ansari X PRIZE. Just as important as Space Ship One's historic flights, the competition for the X PRIZE spurred the creation of a private spaceflight industry in this country.

It is with this past success in mind that I rise to speak in support of the new Automotive X PRIZE. This new prize will award a multimillion-dollar prize to teams that can design, build and demonstrate production-capable vehicles that achieve 100 miles per gallon or its equivalent. With the current price of oil hovering around \$100 per barrel, it is more important than ever that our country develops technologies that increase the efficiencies of our